



# NEWSLETTER 9

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## It's Gap Weeks voting time again

You will have seen that as usual in our year-long programme, we allow our members a chance to select a movie of their choice, except that this year you have two Gap Weeks to fill with your selections. The vote will be on Valentines' Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> (the evening we screen **After Love**) so you will need to be sure to tear yourself away from your romantic assignation, candles and all, on that evening to come and watch the film and also vote for your members' choice films for the two blank Wednesday dates in the summer term, May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 06<sup>th</sup>.

Here are the four films from which you will be asked to select your preferred TWO titles. You will be asked to pick one of the two comedies (**The Death of Stalin** and **The Party**) and one of the two dramas (**Hotel Salvation** and **Back to Burgundy**). Remember, voting will take place next week February 14.

**THE DEATH OF STALIN** Armando Iannucci UK/France 2017 106 mins Cert: 15 Lang: Eng  
Armando Iannucci is most familiar to TV audiences for his cutting political satire (*Veep* and *The Thick of It*). Lovers of his work will know that he sails very close to the wind on many occasions, such that watching can be more of a squirm-fest than enjoyment. It should come as no surprise then that his film **The Death of Stalin**, a big hit on its release in 2017 follows that same pattern, but transposed into the anarchic and violent world of 1950's Russia. Based on a French comic strip, the film tells the farcical goings on surrounding the last days of the great dictator in 1953.



**THE PARTY** Sally Potter UK 2017 71 mins Cert: 15 Lang: Eng  
With Timothy Spall and Kristin Scott Thomas heading a small, but stellar cast, Sally Potter's latest movie **The Party** is a delightful and funny account of what should be a celebratory evening for Bill and Janet. However, once the guests arrive, and the conversations develop, it becomes clear that not everything is going to go down as smoothly as the red wine.



Undoubtedly, after this night, things will never be the same again for any of the characters involved.

**MUKTI BHAWAN / HOTEL SALVATION** Dir. Shubhashish Bhutiani India 2016 102 mins Cert: tbc Lang: Hindi  
Faced with his father's untimely and bizarre demand to go and die in the holy city of Varanasi and attain Salvation, a son is left with no choice but to embark on this journey. This story, a poetic yet realistic and humane meditation on life, death and karma, has a perfect balance between drama and comedy, turning it into a colourful, humorous and enlightening experience. The cinematography - shots of the Ganges, its people, boats and rituals - is beautiful.



**CE QUI NOUS LIE / BACK TO BURGUNDY** Cédric Klapisch France 2017 113 mins Cert: 15 Lang: Fre/Eng/Span  
After a 10 year absence, Jean returns to his hometown when his father falls ill. Reuniting with his sister Juliette and his brother Jérémie, they have to re-build their relationship and trust as a family again. Director Cédric Klapisch's latest, slow-burning film is a pleasing drama about the importance of family and the power of forgiving. And it is even more pleasing if you are partial to a glass of fine *bourgogne*.



## **Union Films Spring programme**

Alongside our **Phoenix** programme through to Easter, **Union Films** is screening its usual varied mix of titles.

08/02 Thur 20:00 **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**  
11/02 Sun 17:00 **The Foreigner**  
11/02 Sun 20:00 **Hacksaw Ridge**  
13/02 Tues 19:00 **LEGO Ninjago**



15/02 Thur 19:00 **NLive Follies**  
 18/02 Sun 15:00 **Despicable Me 3**  
 18/02 Sun 17:00 **Coco**  
 18/02 Sun 20:00 **Darkest Hour**  
 20/02 Tues 19:00 **Coco**  
 22/02 Thur 19:00 **NLive Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**  
 25/02 Sun 15:00 **Maze runner 1**  
 25/02 Sun 17:00 **Maze runner 2**  
 25/02 Sun 20:00 **Maze Runner: The Death Cure**  
 27/02 Tues 19:00 **Downsizing**  
 01/03 Thur 20:00 **Happy Death Day**  
 04-10/03 Various times **Black Panther**  
 11/03 Sun 17:00 **Early Man**  
 11/03 Sun 20:00 **The Commuter**  
 13/03 Tues 19:00 **Paddington 2**  
 15/03 Thur 19:00 **The Death of Stalin**  
 16/03 Fri tbc Film festival  
 22/03 Thur tbc **NLive Julius Caesar**



**THE TREE OF WOODEN CLOGS** Saturday 17 February, 6 p.m. Union Films Cinema.  
*An Italian film masterpiece shot in Treviglio*

Romsey Twinning is pleased to present a special screening of an Italian film classic, Ermanno Olmi's (**L'albero degli zoccoli**) **The Tree of Wooden Clogs** (12A). Romsey Twinning is sponsoring this presentation because the film was shot in and around their twin town of Treviglio in the Bergamo region east of Milan. The director, Ermanno Olmi, himself a native of Treviglio, chose to use mainly local, non-professional actors for his epic depiction of peasant life in late nineteenth-century

Italy. Originally released in 1978, when it won that year's *Palme d'Or* at the Cannes Film Festival, **The Tree of Wooden Clogs** was re-released in 2017 in a handsome new 4K restoration financed by Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation. Olmi himself played a crucial role in the two-year restoration which not only cleaned up the existing prints but also used digital technology to adjust the tonal and colour balances of the photography; the result, according to those responsible, has been a version that is truer to the director's original vision.

The film, which is often cited as a late masterpiece of the Italian neo-realism movement, focuses on four families working and living on the farm of a landowner in the Bergamasco region. We witness a year in their lives, following their daily activities and the natural flow of existence: birth, marriage, death, and the trials and tribulations in between. The principal filming location was an old *cascina* (walled farmstead) on the outskirts of Treviglio; because of this and the use of local people as characters in the film it was striking how many friends from Treviglio during their recent visit to Romsey had stories to tell about people they knew who had been involved in the filming, and about its impact on the local community. Not surprisingly, they are delighted that we are showing it!

The film has a running time of three hours and there will be a short introduction by Luciana O'Neill, an expert on Italian film. It will be shown with English subtitles; those of you hoping to use the opportunity to hone your Italian language skills are warned that the film's soundtrack largely uses the local Bergamasco dialect, which is apparently fairly impenetrable to standard Italian speakers! For readers of Italian, however, here is a link to a Corriere article about the restoration:

[http://bergamo.corriere.it/notizie/cultura-e-spettacoli/16\\_giugno\\_28/scorsese-restaura-l-albero-zoccoli-e2dc7316-3cfb-11e6-922f-98d199acd386.shtml](http://bergamo.corriere.it/notizie/cultura-e-spettacoli/16_giugno_28/scorsese-restaura-l-albero-zoccoli-e2dc7316-3cfb-11e6-922f-98d199acd386.shtml)

**Tickets** (unnumbered) cost **£7.50** (£6.50 Twinning members, £4 students). They are available in advance (from 15 January) from the SUSU Box Office [www.susu.org/boxoffice](http://www.susu.org/boxoffice) (50p booking fee per ticket) or from Roland Matthews tel: (01794) 518275 (cheques, etc. to "Romsey Twinning"). There will be a licensed bar available from 5 p.m. selling Italian drinks and snacks which can be taken into the auditorium and enjoyed while watching the film. (Please note that this is not a Phoenix presentation. Any members wishing to see this excellent film should buy tickets as indicated above.)

[www.thephoenix.org.uk](http://www.thephoenix.org.uk)

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